

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

- (1) JP 9-213980
- (2) EP 789,405
- (3) JP 5-83881
- (4) JP 7-36556
- (5) JP 10-101268
- (6) JP 7-240532

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Document (1) is discussed in the application commencing at page 5, line 12, Documents (3), (4) and (5) are discussed commencing at page 6, line 14, and Document (6) is discussed commencing at page 7, line 7, and are believed to be pertinent for the reasons noted therein. English-language abstracts for Documents (1) and (3) to (6) are enclosed. Document (2) is believed to be an English-language counterpart of Document (1).

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Application:

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT
10/025,559	December 26, 2001	3748

In accordance with 37 C.F.R §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the specification, claims and drawings is enclosed. It is believed that a Japanese priority application for the above-identified U.S. Application has been published, making the Japanese application potentially available as prior art under § 102(a).

The subject application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a final action or a Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is timely filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and is accompanied by the \$180.00 fee specified at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to
be directed to our address given below.

Attorney for Applicants

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 39,000

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, New York 10112-3801 Facsimile: (212) 218-2200